

In the Claims:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A comprehensive signaling node, comprising:
 - a signaling interface adapted for transmitting and receiving signaling communications;
 - a storage system configured to store a Media Gateway Controller (MGC) routine, to store a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) routine, to store a Session Border Controller (SBC) routine, to store a Push-To-Talk (PTT) routine, to store a H.323 routine, to store a Wide Area Network (WAN) compression routine, and to store a Communication Assistance for Law Enforcement (CALE) routine; and
 - a processing system in communication with the signaling interface and the storage system, with the processing system being configured to receive a signaling communication through the signaling interface, process the signaling communication with the MGC routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with the SIP routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with the SBC routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with the PTT routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with the H.323 routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with the WAN compression routine if appropriate, or process the signaling communication with the CALE routine if appropriate.
2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The comprehensive signaling node of claim 1, with the storage system being further configured to store an enable/disable system and with the processing system being further configured to receive a configuration command, with the configuration command specifying an enable or disable operation for one or more specified signaling routines of the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine, and perform the configuration operation of the configuration command, wherein the configuration operation enables or disables the one or more specified signaling routines.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The comprehensive signaling node of claim 2, with the comprehensive signaling node further comprising an operator interface in communication with the processing system, and wherein the processing system is configured to receive the configuration command through the operator interface.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The comprehensive signaling node of claim 1, with the storage system being further configured to store operational data from the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The comprehensive signaling node of claim 1, with the storage system being further configured to store operational data from the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine, and with the processing system being further configured to receive a report command and generate and transmit a report including operational data specified in the report command.
6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The comprehensive signaling node of claim 1, with the storage system being further configured to store a billing system and with the processing system being further configured to perform billing operations for the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.
7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The comprehensive signaling node of claim 1, with the storage system being further configured to store a provisioning system and with the processing system being further configured to perform provisioning operations for the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a comprehensive signaling node, comprising:

- receiving a signaling communication;
- processing the signaling communication with a Media Gateway Controller (MGC) routine if appropriate;
- processing the signaling communication with a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) routine if appropriate;
- processing the signaling communication with a Session Border Controller (SBC) routine if appropriate;
- processing the signaling communication with a Push-To-Talk (PTT) routine if appropriate;
- processing the signaling communication with a H.323 routine if appropriate;
- processing the signaling communication with a Wide Area Network (WAN) compression routine if appropriate; and
- processing the signaling communication with a Communication Assistance for Law Enforcement (CALE) routine if appropriate.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

- receiving a configuration command in the comprehensive signaling node, with the configuration command specifying an enable or disable operation for one or more specified signaling routines of the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine; and
- performing the configuration operation of the configuration command, wherein the configuration operation enables or disables the one or more specified signaling routines.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 9, with the receiving comprising receiving the configuration command through an operator interface of the comprehensive signaling node.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, further comprising collecting and storing operational data from the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

collecting and storing operational data from the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine;

receiving a report command; and

generating and transmitting a report including operational data specified in the report command.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 8, further comprising the comprehensive signaling node performing billing operations for the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 8, further comprising the comprehensive signaling node performing provisioning operations for the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for operating a comprehensive signaling node, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processing system, direct the processing system to receive a signaling communication, process the signaling communication with a Media Gateway Controller (MGC) routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with a Session Border Controller (SBC) routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with a Push-To-Talk (PTT) routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with a H.323 routine if appropriate, process the signaling communication with a Wide Area Network (WAN) compression routine if appropriate, or process the signaling communication with a Communication Assistance for Law Enforcement (CALE) routine if appropriate.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The instructions of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further configured to direct the processing system to receive a configuration command in the comprehensive signaling node, with the configuration command specifying an enable or disable operation for one or more specified signaling routines of the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine, and perform the configuration operation of the configuration command, wherein the configuration operation enables or disables the one or more specified signaling routines.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The instructions of claim 16, wherein the instructions receive the configuration command through an operator interface of the comprehensive signaling node.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The instructions of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further configured to direct the processing system to collect and store operational data from the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The instructions of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further configured to direct the processing system to collect and store operational data from the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine, receive a report command, and generate and transmit a report including operational data specified in the report command.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The instructions of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further configured to direct the processing system to perform billing operations for the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The instructions of claim 15, wherein the instructions are further configured to direct the processing system to perform provisioning operations for the MGC routine, the SIP routine, the SBC routine, the PTT routine, the H.323 routine, the WAN compression routine, and the CALE routine.